

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE

March 20, 1971

MEMORANDUM OF BRIEFING

PRESENT: Henry A. Kissinger
Colonel Kennedy
David R. Young (Note Taker)

SUBJECT: Laos (Lamson 719)
Cambodia (Toan Thang) 01/71

BRIEFER: Lt. Colonel Martin

DATE: March 18, 1971

Martin: (Opened by saying that in response to Kissinger's question on the replacement regiment, they were going to be extracting a regiment back to Khe Sanh today.)

Kissinger: Will a new one be put in?

Martin: We don't know.

Kissinger: It also looks like 914 is open.

Martin: Yes, that unit has now moved north to support a unit that was taking fire up there.

Kissinger: That could have been done by a new regiment coming in couldn't it?

Martin: Yes, I agree. There were a number of contacts and about 82 enemy bodies were found as a result of ARCLIGHT strikes.

Kissinger: How are they now going to move into Base Area 611 when they are moving north? Shouldn't they be moving southwest into 611? They cannot go from where they are.

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Martin: I agree.

Kissinger: Then they are not going to go after the Binh Trams after all?

Martin: It appears that way.

Kissinger: Who is going to replace the unit that is being extracted today?

Martin: No one as of now.

Kissinger: They just can't hold Route 9 with a decreasing force which is spread out like a sausage all along the road.

Martin: But this is all according to a predetermined plan, it is not just an isolated decision.

Kissinger: But they've never showed us this kind of plan.

Martin: The B-52 strikes have been quite successful and it should be remembered that we are targeting them in this area.

Kissinger: In my view this is the end of this operation; don't they realize that this is the last time they are going to have such full American support?

CAMBODIA

Martin: The patrol from Snoul ran into a hot LZ. It just so happened that the North Vietnamese were advancing south at the same time. They had to move to another LZ and lost three helicopters there and 3 US KIA. In the Chup Planatation operation there is good news. There have been two contacts, one in which 59 enemy were killed and one in which 350 were killed.

Kissinger: You don't believe 350 do you?

Martin: Well, quite a number of weapons were captured, including 68 individual weapons, and several machine guns and rocket launchers. This indicates that it could well be that they did get in the magnitude of 200 or 300, which is still very good.

End of Briefing.

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